



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2007

COUNTY ALERTS RESIDENTS ABOUT JAPANESE BEETLES FOUND IN VISTA *Public Meeting Will Be Held to Discuss Treatment Plans; Affected Homeowners Being Notified*

A live Japanese beetle has been found in Vista, at the same location where the pest was found a year ago. A California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) employee discovered the female Japanese beetle in a beetle trap on Alta Vista Road in Vista. CDFA is currently conducting intensive trapping in the area to determine the extent of the infestation.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 26 at 6 p.m. at the Vista Senior Center in Brengle Park located at 1400 Vale Terrace Drive in Vista. Residents are in the process of being notified about the public meeting by CDFA. Representatives from CDFA, California Department of Pesticide Regulation and County Agriculture, Weights & Measures will be discussing the lifecycle of the Japanese beetle and treatment plans. CDFA will be treating the affected site and adjacent locations beginning today. Homeowners in areas nearby will be notified before treatment begins in their area.

Japanese beetles, native to Japan, generally infest the Eastern Seaboard, spreading south to Alabama and west to Mississippi. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Japanese beetle is the most widespread turf-grass pest in the United States and expenditures to control this pest are estimated at more than \$460 million a year. The beetle can also cause extensive damage to ornamental plants like roses or cut flowers. Adult beetles feed on the leaves and fruit of more than 300 species of plants, while larvae feed on roots. An adult Japanese beetle is a little less than 1/2 inch long and has a shiny, metallic-green body and bronze-colored outer wings, with small tufts of white hair along the sides of its body, under the edges of its wings.

The public can help by reporting suspicious bugs to the **CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899**. For more information, visit the County's Agriculture, Weights & Measures Web site at www.sdcawm.org.

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